

# **Maine Department of Public Safety**

## **COMMUNICATOR**

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The detectives from CID 2 in Augusta have investigated three homicides in 17 days this month in Searsport, Norridgewock and Palmyra. The latest deaths brought the state's homicide number to 21 for 2006, the highest this decade. The last time homicides exceeded 19 was in 1999 when 25 deaths were investigated. The latest was Tuesday morning in Palmyra where 13 year old Anthony Tucker was shot to death in the front yard of his home. His mother's boyfriend is charged with murder and was committed Wednesday at the Riverview Psychiatric Hospital in Augusta. Last Friday, the remains of 18 year old Amy Drake was found in woods off River Road in Norridgewock. She had been missing since late September. Detectives met this week to compare notes on the case and get assignments in their continuing investigation. On November 12, a Searsport man was stabbed to death and his brother has been charged with manslaughter.

Fire Marshals have dealt with two very dangerous situations this past week involving acid bombs at the Skowhegan Wal-Mart and the attempted firebombing of a car in Presque Isle. Quick work by investigators in both cases had suspects under arrest within hours of each incident. Eight people were treated after two acid bombs went off inside the Skowhegan store. Using store security photos, two 15 year old boys were identified and charged. In Presque Isle, a 19 year old college student is charged with arson after investigators say he hot-wired a gasoline bomb in the engine compartment of a man's car. The intended victim and the man under arrest had been dating the same woman.

Bank robberies continue on the increase in Maine. So far this year there have been 19 – the most in recent years. A lone gunman robbed Maine Bank and Trust in Scarborough on Tuesday. In 1995, there were 16 bank robberies in Maine, and 2005 and 2002 each saw 14. Investigators say drugs are the likely reason for the increase.

### **METH TRAINING**



**So far this year in Maine there have been seven methamphetamine labs processed by MDEA agents. That compares with a total of 13 since MDEA broke up the first meth lab in Houlton in 1998. This week MDEA hosted a two-day training in Bangor for agents on how to process and dismantle a meth lab. Part of the training was a practical exercise to give agents hands-on experience.**

**(MDEA photos)**



**MDEA converted a used former state vehicle to carry the specialized equipment necessary for meth lab responses. MDEA Director Roy McKinney said there have been 40 arrests in the past year for sale or manufacturing of meth and agents have seized nearly a pound of the highly addictive drug.**

Four people died on Maine roads during the four-day Thanksgiving weekend. The fatal crashes took place in Gorham, Sanford, Orland and Hope. The Gorham and Sanford crashes both involved vehicles that struck trees and burst into flames.

Troopers covered a tragic farm accident in Bradford this week. A 39 year old man died when his arm became entangled in a hay baler and he was pulled into the machinery.

There were a number of outrageous speeds troopers intercepted this past week, both on divided highways and on two lane roads. A car with four Navy men from Brunswick was stopped on the turnpike in Gray at 111 mph; a motorist was clocked by the State Police plane in Gardiner at 97 mph; a motorist was stopped on Route 9 in Amherst for 90 mph; and another was caught on radar on Route 17 in Readfield at 105. Trooper Bill Plourde caught up with that vehicle about two miles later after it had gone off the road and crashed. He charged 24 year old Jeremy Ouellette of Wilton with a number of violations.

State Police detectives are monitoring the condition of a Hallowell woman seriously injured in a domestic violence incident at her Foye Road home last week. Brenda Hewins is being treated for a number of injuries. Her boyfriend, Wayne Allen, was arrested by Hallowell PD on November 25 and charged with aggravated assault. Hewins is being treated at Central Maine Medical Center in Lewiston.

Detectives are also working with South Portland Police investigating the death of an eight week old boy. Kobin Freeman died shortly after he arrived at Maine Medical last Saturday. An autopsy was conducted Monday at the State Medical Examiner's Office and the results have not been released. The boy was the only son of Aryne and Richard Freeman who live in the Brickyard Apartments, which was part of the old Youth Center. ##